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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1489

INFO RUEHDL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0288

RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0987

RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0047

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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000701

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/26/2017

TAGS: PTER PGOV AF IT TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY: NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS AGAINST GOT POLICY

REF: STATE 36204

Classified By: PolCouns Janice G. Weiner, reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

(C) We made reftel points on the release of Taliban prisoners to Turkish MFA Deputy Director General Sakir Torunlar on March 27. Torunlar stated unequivocally that GOT policy, whether at home or abroad, is not to negotiate with terrorists. This has been long-standing GOT policy across administrations. In Afghanistan, the release of the Taliban potentially puts ISAF troops at risk, including Turkey's. In addition to the USG concerns we outlined, Torunlar raised the specter of possible copycat actions by other terrorist groups. Such an exchange, he stated, would never be on the agenda in Turkey.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

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